

UNIVERSITY HILL UPDATE

From: Sarah K. Wiebenson
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To: University Hill Stakeholders

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Preliminary Ecopass Feasibility Study Results Find Widespread Support and 330+ Full-Time Non-Student Employees

A survey of the 92 **Hill Commercial Area businesses** to determine the feasibility of an RTD regional bus pass ("Ecopass") program for Hill employees was completed this week. With an 87% response rate, preliminary results show that 45% of the approximately 750 **Hill Commercial Area employees** are full-time and not CU students (who receive a "Buffs Pass" for public transit). Of these, approximately 70% (or 225+) drive alone each day, with some noting that they must drive because of distance, childcare, safety concerns or late/early shifts. Despite the large number of drivers, there was widespread support for pursuing an Ecopass contract given difficulties with parking. Many employees cited that they currently walk 5+ blocks from unrestricted neighborhood parking areas because of the waiting list for permits on the two public parking lots at 14th/College and 12th/Pleasant.

The next step will be to determine whether the number of Hill employees meets the criteria for a RTD master contract. Additional access improvements may be investigated as a result of the findings, including more (or covered) bicycle parking, structured parking garages, and improved lighting for safe employee travel at night.

UHCAMC Recommends Prohibiting All New Housing in the Hill Commercial Area

On Wednesday, the **University Hill Commercial Area Management Commission** (UHCAMC) voted 4-0 to recommend prohibiting new residential units in the Hill Commercial Area, with no exception for senior and affordable. The stated concern was that any square footage of new housing is a lost opportunity for additional commercial activity to support year-round district vitality. The moratorium study found a ratio of approximately 10:1 housing units/acre in the University Hill Commercial Area, compared to 1:10 housing units/acre downtown. Only 4% of the square footage in the Hill Commercial Area is currently occupied by office uses.

City Council 1st Reading of Moratorium Study Recommendations

On Tuesday, the **Council** conducted its first reading of the proposed zoning changes to address the over-concentration of housing in the Hill Commercial Area. A public hearing on the proposal will be held by the Council in March (see 'Upcoming Meetings' below). Click [HERE](#) to read the *Daily Camera* coverage of the first reading.

City of Boulder Launches App to Track and Map Transportation Access Feedback from Community Members

The City of Boulder has launched a new tool to gather feedback on access issues. Commonplace is an online platform for community members to provide their preferred method of transportation, and what they would like to see in the future. Visit Boulder.Commonplace.is on a computer, tablet or smartphone to add a comment after creating a unique login, or login with an existing social media account like Facebook or Twitter. Tweet a comment or picture using hashtag #BoulderAMPS and your comments will automatically appear on the Commonplace [map](#).

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, Feb. 26 @ 9:00 a.m. – **The Hill Boulder** monthly breakfast meeting (Illegal Pete's, 1124 13th Street)

Tuesday, Mar. 3 @ 6:00 p.m. – **City Council** public hearing on the moratorium (Council Chambers, 1777 Broadway)